

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 117394
ORIGIN SY-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 USSS-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY A/SY/OPS/FO - JCKOLESNIK:SE
APPROVED BY A/SY/OPS/FO - FJHARRICK
A/SY/OPS/FO - MKDALTON
LMCFARLAND (SUBS)

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O 090008Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 117394

PRETORIA FOR RSO; PASS TO US SECRET SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES

FOLLOWING REPEAT GABORONE 01290 SENT ACTION SECSTATE MAY 5.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1290

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CFED BC
SUBJECT: COUNTERFEIT U.S. DOLLARS

1. WE RECENTLY RECEIVED FROM LOCAL MERCHANT WHO IS WELL
KNOWN TO EMBASSY A COUNTERFEIT 100 DOLLAR BILL PASSED IN HIS
GABORONE STORE SOMETIME IN MARCH 1978 BY A YOUNG MAN THOUGHT
TO BE NIGERIAN AND WHO HAS NOT BEEN SEEN SINCE.

2. BILL BEARS SERIAL NO. B00847633A, FEDERAL RESERVE
ORIGIN OF NEW YORK AND SIGNATURES OF DIVID M. KENNEDY AND
DOROTHY ANDREWS SLATEN (SIC). PAPER IS OF POOR, WORN AND
YELLOWING QUALITY AND ENGRAVING THIRD RATE. BILL TO BE
POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT MAY 9.

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3. EMBASSY RECEIVED BILL IN CONFIDENCE, ON UNDERSTANDING
THAT THE LOCAL MERCHANT IN QUESTION WOULD NOT BE NAMED NOR

MENTIONED TO BOTSWANA AUTHORITIES. CURRENCY LAWS HERE
(REQUIRING TIMELY SUBMISSION OF ALL FOREIGN CURRENCY TO
BANKS) AS WELL AS SOMETIMES TENUOUS RELATIONS BETWEEN
GOVERNMENT AND ALIEN SHOPKEEPERS MAKES THE RECIPIENT'S

REQUEST FOR ANONYMITY UNDERSTANDABLE.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST CASE WITHIN MEMORY OF
EMBASSY STAFF OF COUNTERFEIT MONEY SURFACING IN BOTSWANA.
GIVEN APPARENT OLD AGE OF THE BILL AND FACT WE HAVE
HAD NO REPORTS OF OTHERS, WE BELIEVE ITS APPEARANCE
HERE UNIQUE AND DO NOT FEEL IT PRESAGES A WAVE OF
COUNTERFEIT BILLS IN BOTSWANA.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY RECOMMENDS FOLLOWING COURSE OF ACTION
AFTER RELEVANT FEDERAL AUTHORITIES HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO
EXAMINE THE COUNTERFEIT NOTE: THAT EMBASSY BE INSTRUCTED
TO PASS DESCRIPTION OF NOTE TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND BANKS
(BARCLAYS AND STANDARD) WITH SIMPLE ADDENDUM THAT USG HAS
REASON TO BELIEVE THAT NOTE OF THIS TYPE MAY BE CIRCULATING
IN THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN AREA. NORLAND
UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE117394
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JCKOLESNIK:SE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780195-0481
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780578/aaaacomk.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4c0fb1a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SY
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2747384
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COUNTERFEIT U.S. DOLLARS
TAGS: CFED, BC
To: PRETORIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4c0fb1a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014